

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (*Currently Amended*) A method for assigning resources in a shared channel of a communication network comprising a master station and a plurality of slave stations communicating with said master station over said shared channel, said master station sending transmit authorizations to said slave stations authorizing each of them to transmit at least a traffic packet on said shared channel, at least one of said slave stations having inactivity periods during which said slave station has no traffic packet to transmit, a maximum time interval between two transmit authorizations, called activity time interval, being ensured during non inactivity periods for each slave station, wherein said method comprises~~being characterized in comprising the steps of:~~

[[-]] transmitting to said master station a silence indication upon reception of a transmit authorization at said slave station during an inactivity period; and

[[-]] increasing said maximum time interval between two transmit authorizations for said slave station upon reception of said silence indication at said master station, wherein said maximum time interval, upon reception of said silence indication, is increased by a value dependent upon a duration of said inactivity period.

2. (*Currently Amended*) The A-method according to claim 1, wherein the method characterized in further comprises ~~comprising the step of restoring,~~ at said master station, said activity time interval between two transmit authorizations for said slave station upon reception of a traffic packet from said slave station after an inactivity period.

3. (*Currently Amended*) The A-method according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in~~ that said silence indication is a predefined silence packet transmitted by said slave station on said shared channel to said master station.

4. (*Currently Amended*) The A-method according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in~~ that successive time intervals between transmit authorizations sent to a slave station during an inactivity period of said slave station are dependent upon a load of said shared channel ~~are determined by a predefined function.~~

5. (*Currently Amended*) The A-method according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in~~ that said master station is a base station of a radio communication network and said slave stations are mobile terminals of said radio communication network sharing an uplink communication channel, said base station broadcasting transmit authorizations on a downlink channel to said mobile terminals, said activity time interval between two transmit authorizations being determined at said base station for each mobile terminal depending on the traffic characteristics supported by said mobile terminal.

6. (*Currently Amended*) ~~The A~~ method according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ said uplink communication channel is a time-shared communication channel, said base
station broadcasting transmit authorizations on a downlink channel indicating which time slot of
said uplink communication channel has to be used by the terminal authorized to transmit.

7. (*Cancelled*).

8. (*Currently Amended*) A master station for assigning resources on a shared channel of a
communication network to a plurality of slave stations, said master station comprising:

[[-]] a resource assignment module to assign transmit authorizations to said slave
stations to authorize each of them to transmit packets on said shared channel; [[,]]

[[-]] a silence packet detector to detect a predefined silence packet received on said
shared channel; and

[[-]] a time interval adjuster to modify the maximum time interval between two
transmit authorizations sent to a slave station upon reception of a silence packet from said slave
station, said time interval adjuster comprising means for increasing said maximum time interval
upon reception of said silence indication by a value dependent upon a duration of said inactivity
period.

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9. (*Currently Amended*) A master station according to claim 8, wherein ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ said master station is a base station part of a radio communication network, said base station
comprising a resources assignment module to assign resources on a shared channel to a plurality
of mobile terminals by sending transmit authorizations to authorize said mobile terminals to
transmit packets on said shared channel.